

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
OF OGBOURNE ST GEORGE HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY 10 JULY 2008 AT 7:30pm

Those Present: Mr K Wallace (Chairman)
Mrs C Mudge
Mrs C Manos
Mr P Rouse
Mr R Smith
Mr P Willis
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)
Mr C Humphries (WCC)

Apologies were received from Mr M Grove, Mr D Hunter (Kennet).
5 residents were present

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: **Bell Field:** Following the tree pruning some tidying of the resulting timber had taken place but the Clerk & Cllr Willis would review the current state and clear as appropriate.

Cycle Path: The Clerk had promised to circulate the email correspondence Cllr Manos had with Nick Stedman, Liaison Ranger. He thought he had done so but would resend it. The Clerk would write to ROW manager Richard Broadhead regarding future plans for the cycle path.

Street Lighting: The Clerk reported that he had had a discussion with Bob Hussey at Kennet regarding the amenity lighting. Mr Hussey stated that had Kennet been the village's lighting authority orange sodium vapour lights would have been installed as replacements when existing lights failed. He recommended that the Parish Council wait until after Wiltshire becomes a unitary authority to decide about remaining its own lighting authority. Meanwhile it may be possible to obtain a grant from Kennet to update the village lights. The Clerk would arrange some quotations and Cllr Smith would investigate the most cost efficient lighting system.

Village Website: Tim Frost reported that the website was ready to be launched and distributed draft of a flyer that would be included in a forthcoming copy of the Dragon. He asked that the Parish Council appoint a website committee representative; in the absence of a Councillor volunteer the Clerk agreed to represent the Council.

Play Area: Cllr Willis and the Clerk agreed to fit new swing seats at the Village Hall play area, and with assistance from other Cllrs, to replace the broken rung on the slide. It was also agreed to carry out a visual check on all equipment for any obvious areas of damage or rough edges. The Clerk advised the next full inspection was due in September.

Speeding: Cllr Smith had sent his report to the Police and WCC and awaited responses. He had endeavoured to find out what actions had been taken by the Police. A new community speed watch project was under trial in Wiltshire. Outcomes would be discussed with responses at a future meeting.

- Finance: A current statement of the financial position of the Parish Council was distributed by the Clerk. The following payments were made:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Printing of Dragon – 2 months | £28.20 |
| Southern Electric | £139.71 |
| Wicksteed Leisure | £135.15 |
| Bawden – mowing | £275.15 |
- Planning: Repainting the wall of Elm Tree Cottage and the subterranean garage at Cotswold House had been approved by Kennet. The replacement building in the High Street had been refused. An application for routine tree maintenance at The Chantry had been circulated to members.
- School Hall & Parking: It was agreed that the Chairman would request an update on the proposed changes outside the school to remove the ‘hump’ and make access easier. The immediate neighbours had been invited to a consultation on the plans for the new hall next Monday 14th July with two public consultations on 22nd. Significant concern had been expressed regarding the effect on the village hall of a modern ‘community hall’. The two neighbouring Councillors, Willis and Mudge, would report their views following their briefing on 14th in time for others to attend the public consultation. It was felt that the Council could not sit back and wait to know outcomes but should be proactive in its input to this development. It was considered important to ensure the planning application contained conditions of use to ensure the existing village hall did not become a white elephant for the Parish Council.
- Unitary Authority – Service Devolvement: The Chairman asked if the Councillors wished to take on any services possibly available to be devolved from County and read out a list. Most of these services were more applicable to larger Parishes and Towns. None were wanted. The Clerk reported that he had responded to correspondence from the Chief Executive of WCC regarding proposed dates of future elections. The response reflected the councillors’ comments and the position minuted in November 2007 that it was preferable to have elections as originally proposed in 2011, failing that elections in 2009 and 2013 rather than a six year term until 2013.
- Telephone Boxes: The Chairman had received correspondence from Kennet regarding BT’s proposed removal of telephone boxes. While the village was not affected it may be in future and the Councillors may wish to consider their response to such a proposition. The Clerk commented that the actual usage of the telephone boxes would be a material fact in considering their future.
- Woodland Planting It was reported that the footpath across the field recently planted as woodland had become seriously overgrown. The Clerk would take appropriate action.
- Blocked road drains: It was reported that a number of drains appeared blocked during recent heavy rainfall. The Clerk would arrange some gully cleansing.
- Foul Water: A resident reported that the problem of foul water in a field below the kennels had reappeared. The Chairman agreed to contact the Environment Agency to have it investigated again.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:55pm. The next meeting would be held on Thursday September 11th 2008.